

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated April 5, 2007, Claims 1-13 and 15-23 now remain in this application. Claims 1 and 22 have been amended. Claims 26-27 have been canceled.

Claims 15, 26 and 27 were objected to.

Claims 26 and 27 were rejected under 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph.

Claims 1-13 and 15-23 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a).

Claims 26 and 27 were held to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim Objections

Claims 15, 26 and 27 are objected to because of the following informalities: The square brackets should be deleted from Claim 15. Line 8 of each of Claims 26 and 27 should be corrected to recite "a second reentrant path."

Claim 15 is not amended, and the square brackets have been deleted as requested by the Examiner.

The language of Claim 26 has been copied into its base claim, Claim 1, with the correction of the phrase noted in the objection to "a second reentrant path". The language of Claim 27 has been copied into its base claim, Claim 22, with the correction of the phrase noted in the objection to "a second reentrant path". Applicants hereby cancel claims 26 and 27.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph. The Examiner has suggested that this rejection be overcome by reciting a "second RF source power applicator"

coupled to the "second conduit" in each of Claims 26 and 27. The language of Claim 26 has been copied into its base claim, Claim 1 along with the suggested change of inserting that a "second RF source power applicator" coupled to the "second conduit". The language of Claim 27 has been copied into its base claim, Claim 22 along with the suggested change of inserting that a "second RF source power applicator" coupled to the "second conduit". Therefore, the rejection under 35 USC 112 2nd paragraph has been overcome.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 26 and 27 were held to be allowable if rewritten to overcome the objections and rejection under 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph. This has been done by making the required corrections noted above and then copying the language of Claims 26 and 27 into their respective base claims, namely independent Claims 1 and 22, respectively.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

First Rejection: Claims 1-4, 6-13, 17, 18, and 22-23 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,321,134 (Henley et al.) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,432,260 (Mahoney et al.), U.S. Pat. No. 6,150,628 (Smith et al.), and U.S. Pat. No. 5,074,456 (Degner et al.).

Second Rejection: Claim 5 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Henley et al. in view of Mahoney et al., Smith et al., and Degner et al., and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,643,557 (Miller et al.).

Third Rejection: Claims 15-17 and 19-21 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Henley et al. in view of Mahoney et al., Smith et al., and Degner et al. as applied to Claims 1 and 18 above, and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,571,366 (Ishii et al.)

All of the foregoing rejections under 35 USC 103 have been overcome because the two independent claims, Claims 1 and 22, have been amended to include all of the claim language of Claims 26 and 27, respectively. Claims 26 and 27 have been held to be allowable, and therefore independent Claims 1 and 22 are allowable upon the same basis, as they are now equivalent to allowable Claims 26 and 27, respectively, rewritten in independent form. Therefore, allowance of Claims 1 and 22 is respectfully requested. Claims 2-13 and 15-21 depend from Claim 1 and are allowable upon the same basis. Claim 23 depends from Claim 22 and is allowable upon the same basis. Therefore, all of the pending claims are allowable and the application is now in condition for allowance.

SUMMARY

In view of the foregoing corrections and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the claims and the rejection to the claims under 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph and 35 USC 103(a) be withdrawn.

If the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring adverse final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, the Examiner should telephone Robert

Wallace at (805) 644-4035 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,



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